

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

ADB Assistance for NH

356. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS :
SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to approach the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank for getting assistance for development of National Highways;

(b) if so, whether feasibility report for the development of National Highways has been prepared;

(c) if so, the details thereof including the National Highways that will be undertaken with the help of the above mentioned financial institutions and the funds required for the purpose; and

(d) the probable assistance likely to be received from World Bank and ADB for the purpose ?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) to (c) Based on pre-feasibility studies, there is a proposal for seeking World Bank loan assistance for widening to four lanes and strengthening of existing two lanes of Agra-Barwa Adda section of National Highway-2 and Madras-Trichy section of NH-45.

(d) It is too early to indicate the amount of loan assistance likely to be received for the purpose.

Clearance of Irrigation Project in Andhra Pradesh

357. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh had forwarded a number of irrigation projects to the Union Government for its clearance;

(b) if so, the number of projects cleared so far and the number of projects still pending;

(c) the reasons for not clearing the pending projects so far; and

(d) the target date for clearance of the projects ?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) to (c) During the last five years (since April, 1992) 5 (five) medium projects of Andhra Pradesh have been given investment clearance by the Planning Commission. 7 (Seven) Major Projects and 2 (two) Medium Projects have been found acceptable by the Technical Advisory Committee subject to certain observations and on two Major projects, the State Government is required to sort out various techno-economic issues. 10 (Ten) Major and 8 (Eight) Medium projects have been sent back to the State Government for various reasons

such as resolution of inter-state issues, establishment of water availability on long term basis, basic deficiencies in project planning etc.

(d) The clearance of projects depends upon how soon the State Government is able to comply with the observations of the appraising agencies and obtains clearances from the Ministry of Environment & Forests from environment & forests angles and from Ministry of Welfare on rehabilitation and resettlement aspects.

Bridges at Beas and Parvati Rivers

358. SHRI SUKH RAM : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether proposals for construction of two bridges i.e. one near Ramsheela on river Beas and other at Zia on river Parvati are pending for long time;

(b) if so, the steps taken to complete construction of these bridges; and

(c) the allocation made year-wise for the last three years and funds utilised and physical targets achieved so far ?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) to (c) The proposals for construction of two bridges i.e. one near Ramsheela on river Beas and other at Zia on river Parvati are included in construction of Kullu bypass, which has been sanctioned for Rs. 19.3158 crores. Feasibility studies and preliminary designs of the bridges have been completed. Actions for inviting tenders are in advanced stage.

Fund for these bridges are included in the overall allocations for the State of Himachal Pradesh which are as under during the last three years :

1994-95	—	Rs. 13.5 crores
1995-96	—	Rs. 16.0 crores
1996-97	—	Rs. 12.0 crores

Improvement in Teaching and Treatment Facilities

359. SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from Government of Kerala regarding the improvement in the existing teaching and treatment facilities in the medical colleges in the State; and

(b) if so the details thereof and steps taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) No such proposal has been received in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

(b) Does not arise.

Privatisation of Government Hospitals

360. PROF. JITENDRA NATH DAS :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any plan to hand over the management of Government Hospitals to private sector or foreign multinational Companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Indian in Pakistani Jails

361. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Indians in Pakistani jails at present;

(b) the number of women and children out of them;

(c) the number of persons who have been there for over a year; and

(d) the steps taken to repatriate them during the last one year ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) to (d) According to available information, there are at present 1318 Indian civilian prisoners in the custody of Pakistan, including 38 Indian children lodged at the Edhi Welfare Centre, Karachi. Out of these, 1233 prisoners have been in Pakistani custody for more than one year.

In addition, 54 Indian defence personnel missing from the 1965 and 1971 wars are believed to be in custody in Pakistan.

The question of the early release and repatriation of all Indian prisoners under detention in Pakistan has been repeatedly taken up with the Government of Pakistan. The matter was also raised by the External Affairs Minister in his meeting with the Foreign Minister of Pakistan on 18.12.1996. Our efforts continue.

Promotion of Sports

362. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to lay emphasis on the promotion and development of sports and games in Ninth Plan;

(b) whether there is a growing demand to enhance allocation for sports and games;

(c) if so, the funds proposed to be earmarked for the same during the Ninth-Plan; and

(d) the various schemes drawn up for the promotion of sports and games in the above plan period ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT : (SHRI R. DHANUSHKODI ATHITHAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Planning Commission have not yet indicated the allocations for sports and games during the Ninth Plan period.

(d) In addition to the existing schemes, various new schemes have been incorporated in the Ninth Plan proposals for the promotion of sports and games in the country and for achieving excellence at the international level. These include—scheme for training of elite sportspersons; scheme for Inter-school tournaments at various levels; a special scheme for the North-Eastern region, etc.

Mini Port at Kulpi (West Bengal)

363. SHRI CHITTA BASU : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the West Bengal Industries Development Corporation and Mukunda Group of Industries, have signed MOU to set up a Mini Port at Kulpi, in South 24 Parganas, in West Bengal;

(b) if so, whether the project report has since been produced by Mukunda Group of Industries and submitted to the Union Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) It is learnt that such an MOU has been signed.

(b) The State Government of West Bengal forwarded a copy of the techno-economic feasibility study prepared by Bengal Port Limited, through M/s. Howe India Private Limited in connection with seeking Central Government clearance for the proposed port location. Subsequently, West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation (WBIDC) engaged Indian Ports Association (IPA) for appraisal of Bengal Port Limited's proposal on Development of Port & Related Facilities and Industrial Complex at Kulpi.